



23rd World Scout Jamboree, 28 July to 8 August 2015, Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi City, Japan

Visitor Information

The [23rd World Scout Jamboree](#) will be held in Japan from July 28 to August 8, 2015. More than 30,000 Scouts and leaders from 161 countries will converge on Japan to participate in this event. Please review the information and resources below to be prepared for a safe and enjoyable experience!

Check your Passport

The Department of State recommends that you have *at least* six months' validity on your passport when you begin your trip. Please check the expiration date on your passport early to ensure you have sufficient time to renew it if necessary. To see the entry requirements of the country to which you are traveling, visit the [Department of State's Country Specific Information](#) website.

Department of State Resources for Travelers

Enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). This will enable the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to keep you up-to-date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You can easily enroll [online](#).

The Consulate in Fukuoka provides consular services for U.S. citizens living or traveling in Yamaguchi Prefecture and the Island of Kyushu. Please visit the Consulate's [website](#) for contact and other important information. The [U.S. Embassy in Tokyo](#) also offers the full range of consular services, as does the [U.S. Consulate General in Osaka-Kobe](#). Travelers who arrive in Tokyo and proceed to the Jamboree will pass through the Osaka-Kobe consular district.

For the full list of consulates and contact information and a description of the full range of consular services available to U.S. citizens, please visit [Embassy Tokyo's website](#).

Medical Concerns

Check your medical insurance coverage before your trip. Does your insurance cover hospitalization overseas, or the cost of a medical evacuation? For more information on health care abroad, please click [here](#).

Always carry your prescription or non-prescription medication in their original containers along with a copy of your prescription. Certain medications that are commonly used in the United States are illegal in Japan. *Adderall*, for example, is strictly prohibited because it contains amphetamines, and its possession or importation is a crime. It is also illegal to bring into Japan some over-the-counter medicines commonly used in the United States, including inhalers and some allergy and sinus medications. Specifically, products that contain stimulants (medicines that contain pseudoephedrine, such as Actifed, Sudafed, and Vicks inhalers) or codeine are prohibited. Please click [here](#) for more information on bringing medication (prescription or over the counter) into Japan.

Financial Concerns

Notify your credit card company and bank of your overseas travel plans prior to your departure from the United States. Check out helpful information on Embassy Tokyo's [U.S. Citizen Services page](#) for more information about using credit cards in Japan.

Legal Concerns

Obey local laws

An arrest or accident during your visit can result in a difficult legal situation. Your U.S. citizenship does not protect you from prosecution under another country's criminal justice system. If you violate Japanese law, even unknowingly, you may be arrested, imprisoned, or deported. If you are arrested in Japan, even for a minor offense, you may be held in detention without bail for several months or more during the investigation and legal proceedings. If you are arrested in Japan, contact the closest U.S. consulate or Embassy Tokyo for assistance.

Alcohol consumption

The drinking age in Japan is 20. Avoid underage alcohol consumption. As in the United States, disturbing the peace, lewd behavior, littering, driving under the influence, and drinking on the street or on public transportation may all be considered criminal activities by local authorities and can lead to your arrest.

Don't import, purchase, use, or have drugs in your possession

Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs, including marijuana and synthetic drugs, are severe in Japan, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and fines.

Do not carry weapons

Possession of a knife with a locking blade, or a folding blade that is longer than 5.5 cm (a little more than two inches) is illegal in Japan. Leave your Swiss Army Knife at home. The possession of a gun or ammunition is a serious crime in Japan.

U.S. Consular employees cannot arrange for local officials to release detained U.S. citizens. Read more about arrests in Japan [here](#).

Safety Concerns

Take warning flags on beaches seriously

Many swimmers drown when they ignore posted warnings and are overwhelmed by water conditions. If black or red flags are up, do not enter the water. Strong undertows and rough surf along beaches are very common on the Pacific coast. If you swim, always exercise caution.

Be conscientious

Be aware of surroundings and take general precautions. Remember that standards of safety and supervision (e.g., for swimming pools or hotel balconies) may not reach those expected in the United States. The difference has contributed to the deaths of U.S. citizens overseas. Also, don't take your valuables with you on your trip—leave them at home.

If you find yourself in an emergency situation, contact the [Embassy Tokyo](#) or the nearest Consulate:

[U.S. Embassy in Tokyo](#)

1-10-5 Akasaka
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420
Phone: 03-3224-5000
Fax: 03-3505-1862

[U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka](#)

2-5-26, O-hori Chuo-ku
Fukuoka, Japan 810-0052
Phone: 092-751-9331
Fax: 092-713-9222

[U.S. Consulate-General in Osaka/Kobe](#)

American Citizen Services
2-11-5 Nishitenma,
Kita-ku, Osaka 530-8543
Phone: (06) 6315-5900

Fax: (06) 6315-5914

For more information on the general safety and security information in Japan, please visit the **Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Crime and Safety Reports** for [Fukuoka](#) and [Tokyo](#).

From all of us at the Department of State and our embassy and consulates in Japan, have a safe and memorable Scout Jamboree!
